

July 22, 2010

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TO: AREA MANAGERS, UNIT MANAGERS, & ALL MEMBERS OF THE DNRC FIRE
& AVIATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FROM: TED MEAD, Chief, Fire and Aviation Management Bureau

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO THE USDA, FOREST SERVICE COOPERATOR
AIRCRAFT/PILOT APPROVAL LETTER (06/24/10)

It has been agreed that transportation of Forest Service firefighters is allowed in Montana DNRC aircraft for the first 36 hours of any incident and that DNRC will provide NWCG module staffing. If action goes beyond 36 hours, transport of Forest Service firefighters is not authorized regardless of protection responsibility. After 36 hours, authorization (*using the Cooperator Aircraft Utilization Request Form) may be granted by the Regional Aviation Officer on a case by case basis if an NWCG qualified module staffed to IHOG standards is in place and if Forest Service personnel are critical to the incident operations. Authorization is not required in an emergency situation that threatens human life (i.e. Medi-vac, Firefighter evacuation).

*Cooperator Aircraft Utilization request can initially be made and approved verbally with written follow-up.

If you have any questions, please contact John Monzie or me.

Attachments